

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. By this amendment, dependent claim 14 has been added and claim 13 has been rewritten so that it depends from claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Specification and Abstract

Applicant submits herewith amendments to the specification to add the appropriate headings, as well as the Abstract. In view of these amendments to the specification, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw any objections to the specification and abstract.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended clarified the claims.

In addition, Applicant respectfully notes, with respect to the recitation that “the first joint or the second joint comprises two distinct jointing points” in claim 1, that this two-point joint in combination with the third joint creates the recited “rigid guiding triangle.” For example, the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. 1 includes two jointing points 35 that in combination with the third joint 31 constitute a rigid guiding triangle.

Moreover, with respect to claim 8, Applicant has used the traditional means-plus-function language “means for.” The corresponding structure that provides the recited function of providing rigidity is the retractable rigidifying means 61.

In view of these amendments, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
Application No.: 10/542,604

Attorney Docket No.: Q89215

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-12 have been allowed, while claim 13 has been rejected.

Applicant has rewritten claim 13 so that it now depends from allowed claim 1. Thus, all pending claims now include allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and immediate allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 27, 2008